

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-04 LAB-01 SIL-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 DRC-01 /073 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5659

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: DGB PRESIDENT ATTACKS AMERICAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE ON MITBESTIMMUNG

REF: BONN 16036, 15458, 15676, 06262, 04326, 10244,
06261, 04004, 01320; STATE 147672.

1. IN A SPEECH TO THE PRINTERS UNION CONVENTION ON
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OCTOBER 15, DGB PRESIDENT HEINZ OSKAR VETTER ACCUSED THE

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF USING "DIPLOMATS AND MONEY" IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST MITBESTIMMUNG. ACCUSING THE CHAMBER OF BEHAVING IN THE "PRE-CAPITALISTIC AND COLONIAL TRADITION", VETTER SAID THAT THE CHAMBER IN GERMANY IS USING THE WENGLER STUDY, MILLIONS OF DM, DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT AND THE THREAT OF CESSATION OF INVESTMENTS IN THE FRG TO PREVENT MITBESTIMMUNG. SAID VETTER, "IN PREVIOUS TIMES ONE SENT GUN BOATS, TODAY DIPLOMATS AND MONEY." CONTINUED VETTER, "WE WELCOME AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN THE FRG WHICH NOW AMOUNTS TO MANY BILLIONS, AND WE WANT TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE USA. TO US, THE UNITED STATES IS A GREAT NATION WITH A GREAT TASK IN THE WORLD, BUT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC IS NO BANANA REPUBLIC AND COLONIALISM IS DEAD IN EUROPE. THE SOONER THEY REALIZE THAT, THE BETTER FOR ALL OF US."

2. COMMENT. WITH THE SCHEDULED OPENING ON OCTOBER 16 OF HEARINGS ON MITBESTIMMUNG IN THE BUNDESTAG LABOR COMMITTEE AND AWARENESS THAT THE EMBASSY HAS FORWARDED THE WENGLER STUDY TO WASHINGTON, PUBLIC RHETORIC, ACCOMPANIED BY INCREASED INTEREST BY THE PRESS, ON MITBESTIMMUNG CONTINUES TO GROW (COLLECTION OF RECENT NEWS ARTICLES SENT TO HEICHLER, EUR/CC BY OPEN MAIL). WHILE TRADE UNION ATTACKS AGAINST THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ARE NOT NEW, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THAT ANYONE IN THE FRG HAS INTIMATED THAT AMERICAN DIPLOMATS ARE HELPING THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO FIGHT MITBESTIMMUNG.
HILLENBRAND

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